

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment Applicants have amended claims 1-6 to overcome the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection. Claims 1-6 remain in the case.

The Examiner's rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is based on an assertion that the specification is not enabling for "a frame having a top, bottom and pair of sides", "a spring", "a left bracket having a side, a top and a bottom", "a right bracket having a side, a top and a bottom", and "the tops and bottoms meshing with each other" language in the claims, stating that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to understand the meets and bounds of the invention commensurate in scope with these claims, and that the terms used in the claims must be fully supported by the disclosure. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and would point the Examiner to the Summary ("frame having a top, bottom and two sides") and other portions of the specification, the Abstract and the drawing Figures which also are part of the disclosure. Also the Examiner is referred to the specification that recites that the interlocking fingers "assure rigidity of the frame" as support for "a rigid frame."

However claim 1 has been amended to recite "a frame forming a central compartment" and "a sleeve within which an instrument may be mounted, the sleeve being configured to fit within the central compartment" (see page 5, lines 14-19 and Abstract), and now is definitely supported by the disclosure sufficiently to enable anyone of skill in the art to understand the invention.

The Summary and Abstract as well as the drawing Figures show a "flat, steel spring", so the recitation of "a spring" in the claims is enabled and supported by the disclosure. However Applicants have amended claim 2 to eliminate the references to "sides" to conform to claim 1.

Likewise Applicants have changed "bracket" in claim 3 to recite "portion" to conform to the specification language, although these terms would appear to be interchangeable, especially in light of the drawing Figures. Also claim 3 now reads

"fingers, the fingers of the left and right portions interlocking with each other to assure rigidity of the frame."

Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the central rib divides "the central compartment into two compartments." Claims 5 and 6 have been amended in the same manner as claim 2. Therefore the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is deemed to be moot since the claim language is supported by the disclosure and enables one of skill in the art to understand the meets and bounds of the claimed invention.

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eriksson et al in view of Jeffries et al and Saunders et al, citing Eriksson et al as showing a modular rack-mounting system having a frame having a left side **1b** and a right side **1a** with chambers formed on each side, generally shown with a seal **12**, and a sleeve, but not showing a spring mounted button in a hole or a frame having two parts which mesh to form a whole frame. The Examiner cites Jefferies et al as showing a modular carrier for an electrical device having spring mounted buttons in holes in the carrier providing a means of securing the device to the carrier; cites Saunders et al as showing parts which mesh to provide a frame for electrical devices; and concludes that, since the references are from the same field of endeavor, the purposes of Jefferies et al and Saunders et al would have been obvious in the pertinent art of Eriksson et al at the time of the invention so that one having ordinary skill in the art would have modified Eriksson et al with spring mounted buttons in holes in the frame as providing a means of securing a sleeve in a frame and as meshing parts to provide a frame for electrical devices.

Referring to Eriksson et al a number of apparatus cubicles 1a-1d are arranged close to each other and are insulated with respect to the surrounding atmosphere by seal means 12, with the cubicles containing electric equipment. Therefore what Eriksson et al show is a rack-mount unit having side-by-side cubicles 1a-1d that extend the full height of the rack-mount unit. As shown in the drawing Fig. 2 each cubicle may be divided into different equipment bays or compartments into which a modular electrical unit or instrument may be inserted.

Although not described in detail, the modular unit appears to be equivalent to an instrument having electrical components which in turn is mounted within one of the equipment bays. There is no detail in Eriksson et al as to how the equipment bays are formed – is there a sleeve inserted into the rack-mount unit or cubicle that defines the equipment bay (compartment)? Since Eriksson et al are concerned with cooling the rack-mount unit, the fact that the details regarding the formation of the equipment bays within the unit is understandable. Applicants submit that Eriksson et al do not show a frame defining a central compartment, a conforming sleeve within which an instrument may be mounted, and means for detachably securing the sleeve within the frame as recited in claim 1. At best Eriksson et al show a frame having compartments.

Referring to Jefferies et al flexible dowel tabs 72a-d are shown, each with a dowel 78a-d mounted on a tab 76a-d adjacent a hole 74a-d, such that in a relaxed position the dowels do NOT extend into the center (“is flexed outwardly and away from the center of the carrier”). Only when the cover 12 is slid on do the dowels then engage the screw holes 54a-d in the carrier 60. Therefore Jefferies et al do not teach or suggest “a button [dowel] mounted on the spring [tab] and extending through a hole in the frame” as recited in claims 2 and 6, as the dowel of Jefferies does not extend through the hole in the relaxed position.

Referring to Saunders et al a logic card frame has a pair of one piece molded half frames 22 with snap members 24 that engage shelves 26 in the opposing half frame when mated. This does not teach “fingers, the fingers . . . interlocking with each other” as recited in claim 3.

With respect to claim 4 although Eriksson et al show full rack, half rack and third rack width equipment bays in each cubicle, there is no indication that these half and third rack width equipment bays are formed by ribs within a full rack bay. Also as discussed above Eriksson et al do not really show or teach sleeves. Therefore claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Eriksson et al.

Thus claims 1-4 and 6 are deemed to be allowable as being nonobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Eriksson et al in view of Jefferies et al and Saunders et al. Allowance of claims 1-6 is therefore urged, claim 5 having been

indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and such action and the issuance of this application are requested.

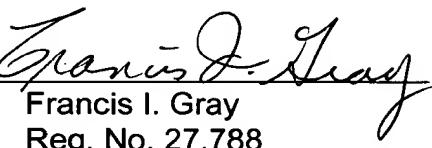
Respectfully submitted,

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